

**Senate File 415 - Reprinted**

SENATE FILE 415  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1215)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 24, 2015)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act related to elections administration and election  
2 officials.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 43.45, Code 2015, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. Notwithstanding any requirement to  
4 the contrary in subsection 1 and subsection 2, paragraph "c",  
5 the commissioner of a county using digital ballot counting  
6 technology may direct the precinct election officials to tally  
7 and record write-in votes at the precincts after the closing  
8 of the polls or may direct the precinct election officials  
9 to sort the ballots by write-in votes for delivery to the  
10 special precinct board to tally and record the write-in votes  
11 on any day following election day and prior to the canvass  
12 by the board of supervisors under section 43.49. For the  
13 purposes of this subsection "*digital ballot counting technology*"  
14 is technology in which digital images of write-in votes are  
15 printed by the precinct election officials at the polling place  
16 after the close of voting.

17 Sec. 2. Section 49.9, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
18 follows:

19 **49.9 Proper place of voting.**

20 Except as provided in section 49.11, subsection 3, paragraph  
21 "b", section 49.11A, or as otherwise provided by law, a person  
22 shall not vote in any precinct but that of the person's  
23 residence.

24 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **49.11A Combined polling places.**

25 1. For any election, the commissioner may designate a  
26 combined polling place to serve more than one precinct upon  
27 determining that designating the combined polling place is  
28 cost-efficient, administratively feasible, and does not impose  
29 an undue burden on persons in the precincts served by the  
30 combined polling place. The commissioner may assign precincts  
31 to a combined polling place and a person who is an eligible  
32 elector of a precinct assigned to a combined polling place who  
33 wishes to vote in person on election day shall vote at the  
34 combined polling place. The commissioner shall post a notice  
35 on the day of the election at the entrance to each combined

1 polling place indicating that it is a combined polling place  
2 and specifying the precincts that are assigned to the combined  
3 polling place.

4 2. a. If the commissioner assigns precincts to a  
5 combined polling place for a primary or general election, the  
6 commissioner shall ensure that the voting system utilized  
7 in the combined polling place reports election results by  
8 individual precinct.

9 b. For a primary or general election, the total number  
10 of voters in all precincts assigned to a combined polling  
11 place shall not exceed three thousand five hundred voters, as  
12 determined by the combined number of votes cast from each of  
13 the precincts at the last preceding general election that was a  
14 presidential election.

15 3. For a primary or general election, the commissioner  
16 shall publish notice of the commissioner's intent to designate  
17 a combined polling place no less than seventy days before the  
18 election. For any other election, the commissioner shall  
19 publish notice of the commissioner's intent to designate a  
20 combined polling place no less than thirty days before the  
21 election.

22 4. The commissioner shall not assign precincts to a combined  
23 polling place for an election if there is filed with the  
24 commissioner at least sixty days before a primary or general  
25 election, or at least twenty days before any other election,  
26 a petition signed by fifty or more eligible electors of a  
27 precinct to be assigned to a combined polling place requesting  
28 that the precinct not be assigned to a combined polling place.  
29 There shall be attached to the petition the affidavit of an  
30 eligible elector of the precinct that the signatures on the  
31 petition are genuine and that all of the signers are to the  
32 best of the affiant's knowledge and belief eligible electors of  
33 the precinct.

34 Sec. 4. Section 50.24, subsection 2, Code 2015, is amended  
35 to read as follows:

1     2. Upon convening, the board shall open and canvass the  
2 tally lists and shall prepare abstracts stating the number of  
3 votes cast in the county, or in that portion of the county  
4 in which the election was held, for each office and on each  
5 question on the ballot for the election. The board shall  
6 contact the chairperson of the special precinct board before  
7 adjourning and include in the canvass any write-in votes  
8 tallied and recorded by the special precinct board or any  
9 absentee ballots which were received after the polls closed in  
10 accordance with section 53.17 and which were canvassed by the  
11 special precinct board after election day. The abstract shall  
12 further indicate the name of each person who received votes for  
13 each office on the ballot, and the number of votes each person  
14 named received for that office, and the number of votes for and  
15 against each question submitted to the voters at the election.  
16 The votes of all write-in candidates who each received less  
17 than five percent of the votes cast for an office shall be  
18 reported collectively under the heading "scattering".

19     Sec. 5. Section 53.20, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended  
20 to read as follows:

21     1. There is established in each county a special precinct to  
22 be known as the absentee ballot and special voters precinct.  
23 Its jurisdiction shall be conterminous with the borders of the  
24 county, for the purposes specified by sections 53.22 and 53.23,  
25 and the requirement that precincts not cross the boundaries  
26 of legislative districts shall not be applicable to it. The  
27 commissioner shall draw up an election board panel for the  
28 special precinct in the manner prescribed by section 49.15,  
29 having due regard for the nature and extent of the duties  
30 required of members of the election board and the election  
31 officers to be appointed from the panel, including, if directed  
32 by the commissioner, the tallying and recording of write-in  
33 votes.

34     Sec. 6. Section 331.904, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
35 2015, is amended to read as follows:

1     *a.* The annual base salary of the first and second deputy  
2 officer of the office of auditor, treasurer, and recorder, the  
3 deputy in charge of election administration, the deputy in  
4 charge of the motor vehicle registration and title division,  
5 and the deputy in charge of driver's license issuance shall  
6 each be an amount not to exceed eighty-five percent of the  
7 annual salary of the deputy's principal officer. In offices  
8 where more than two deputies are required, the annual base  
9 salary of each additional deputy shall be an amount not to  
10 exceed eighty percent of the principal officer's salary. The  
11 amount of the annual base salary of each deputy shall be  
12 certified by the principal officer to the board and, if a  
13 deputy's annual base salary does not exceed the limitations  
14 specified in this subsection, the board shall certify the  
15 annual base salary to the auditor. The board shall not certify  
16 a deputy's annual base salary which exceeds the limitations of  
17 this subsection.